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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1947.

Look Out Mr Molotov!

London, Sept. 16.—Thirteen Russian husbands of Russian wives in Russia plan to meet in London in November in an attempt to see Mr Molotov, Soviet Foreign Minister, when he attends the meeting of Foreign Ministers here.

"We are optimistic that this time we shall be able to do something," Mr A. C. Hall, one of the husbands, said. Hall's son, whom he has never seen, is one year old on November 18. On that day he has arranged to celebrate the event by telephoning to his wife. The cost of the ten-minute birthday treat will be £3.—Reuter.

American Demands 'Shock' U.K.

Imperial Preferences

Geneva, Sept. 16.—The United States request to Commonwealth countries for concessions on Imperial preferences, presented at the meeting yesterday, included demands for total elimination of preferences for some hundred items and reduction of preferential margins by up to 50 percent for another hundred items, the United Press learned from informed British sources today.

The sources said the United States demand had come as a "shock" to the whole Commonwealth group and to the United Kingdom in particular. The request was described as "fantastic" and "out of proportion."

GLOOMY VIEW

British sources took a gloomy view of the possibility of compromise on the basis of the United States request and feared danger to the conference unless there was a certain readiness on the United States side to reduce demands. They pointed out that the United States attitude at Geneva had undergone certain changes in the past week and had softened suddenly, but added that they were unable to see the reasons for this change.

Without prejudicing the official reply from London, the sources said it was difficult to see how the United States request could be met without serious consequences to United Kingdom economy. The sources claimed that never in the last five months of negotiations in Geneva had the United States made such far-reaching requests on Britain.—United Press.

EDITORIAL

Hongkong's Airfield

THE visit of Lord Nathan, British Minister for Civil Aviation, to Hongkong in the public consciousness the subject of a future airport for Hongkong. Other matters of moment had contrived to push this question into the background for several months past, and the adroit silence both on the part of the Ministry and the Hongkong Government has encouraged this sleeping dog to lie. We would be doing Lord Nathan a disservice, however, if we permitted him to leave the Colony under the misapprehension that all interest in a modern airfield has evaporated, and that we are content to jog along with the little Kait Tak aerodrome. There is a general awareness here that unless Hongkong can in the near future provide adequate facilities for international aircraft, the Colony is in danger of being aeronautically bypassed, and that instead of being coming the most important terminal in the Far East, it will drift into the status of an emergency refuelling station. Undoubtedly Lord Nathan is aware that before the war Hongkong had developed into the central converging terminal for civil air lines from all points of the globe, and that plans were well under way for linking the Colony with air services that would permit passengers to make complete round-

GOLD DOLLARS FOR BRITAIN

International Fund Gives Assistance

SNYDER AND BEVIN MEET

London, Sept. 16.—The International Monetary Fund had agreed to provide \$60,000,000 in exchange for sterling within the next few days, the Treasury announced tonight.

Meanwhile, the International Bank and International Monetary Fund, comprising more than 350 experts on high finance from 45 different countries, have made such headway during the past few days that their second annual meeting, scheduled to last two weeks, ends here tomorrow after only seven days' deliberations.

The Commonwealth and colonial delegates, however, are to remain behind in London for informal dollar talks with Treasury officials.

They hope to eliminate much of the preliminary ground work in preparation for the full round table talks which are expected to be held in November when Empire statesmen will be here for the Royal wedding.

Observers who, in view of the worsening of the world economic position, had expected drastic developments from the conference of the Bretton Woods institutions, were disappointed.

For it resulted merely in the formal ratification of a number of outstanding items.

These were mainly:

- 1.—The admission of Finland as the 40th member nation of both the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund;
- 2.—A decision to increase the quotas payable by Egypt and Iran; and
- 3.—A decision to elect a 14th Executive Director to vote on behalf of Australia, Syria, the Lebanon, and Finland.

SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS

Tomorrow's meeting, at which delegates will hear Mr. John J. McCloy, the Bank President, and Mr. Camillo Gutt, the Managing Director of the Fund, wind up the institutions' first full working year, marks the end of what have been described as "highly successful discussions."

It is stressed, however, that they have merely opened the door to all nations who need financial aid and that it is up to the nations themselves to bring about the necessary improvement in their internal economy.

The Bank Advisory Council today recommended that nine persons representing various international

industrial and agricultural organizations be selected to form the advisory Council of the Bank to serve as counselors for a period of two years.

They included Sir C. V. Narayan, of India and Dr. S. K. Alfred Sze, of China.—Reuter.

DOLLAR CRISIS MOVES

London, Sept. 16.—Important "dollar crisis" moves began today when the United States Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. John W. Snyder, called at the Foreign Office for his first "face-to-face" talk with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin.

The meeting took place under the shadow of yesterday's announcement that the Bank of England has sold to the United States the first £20,000,000 of Britain's reported £60,000,000 gold reserves.

This sale represents only about two weeks of British requirements to finance dollar purchases.

The danger of Britain's final reserves being exhausted before the Marshall plan gets under way, the cost of feeding the Germans in the British Zone of Germany and the cost of maintaining 100,000 British troops in Palestine are assumed to be among the many problems confronting the British and American leaders.

Mr. Snyder arrived here last week for the second annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. He has also had a conference with Mr. Hugh Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and meetings with other Ministers will follow.

Two other important "behind the scenes" developments in fighting the international economic crisis are reported today.

Behind closed doors, the various technical sub-committees of the International Bank have been battling for nearly a week with a host of world financial problems.

Today they presented their findings to the Bank's Board of Governors. The International Monetary Fund will consider the reports of its sub-committees tomorrow.

Secrecy also enshrouds the talks understood to be in progress here between British and Commonwealth experts to save dollars by stepping up trade within the Commonwealth, but observers noted that such developments by Mr. Harold Wilson, the Secretary for Overseas Trade and chairman of the new "building committee" for the intensified export drive.

Speaking at Birmingham yesterday, he said that this was for Britain a matter of "stark economic necessity."—Reuter.

NON-CONVERTIBILITY TALKS

London, Sept. 16.—Four European countries are already—or soon will be—engaged in financial negotiations here regarding the problems of sterling's non-convertibility.

Besides the talks with Italy which opened today, talks with Sweden are expected to be resumed on October 1, with Switzerland in mid-October, and with Portugal "sometime in October."

The negotiations with Denmark which were expected to begin soon have been postponed until a deadlock over prices in the Anglo-Danish food talks has been settled one way or the other.

Preliminary Anglo-Swedish discussions, which took place in London a fortnight ago, reached an interim agreement to cover about four weeks, and the October discussions are expected to reach a final agreement.

The financial talks with Egypt are proceeding in Cairo.—Reuter.

SHARING OUT THE BOOTY

Tokyo, Sept. 16.—Allied G.H.Q. officials announced today that four nations will receive a total of 19,561 items of machine tools and secondary metal working equipment in the first allocation of reparations.

The machinery, from 17 government-owned arsenals, will represent about 28 per cent of the arsenal items set aside as part of the interim Reparations programme for advance transfer.

China will receive one half and the Philippines, the Dutch and the United Kingdom will receive one-sixth of these advance allotments.

This will leave a total of 50,092 machines of similar type from 74 other arsenals and dispersal areas which are earmarked for reparations. They will be allocated to seven nations which are not sharing in the advance transfers or will be used for additional claims by the four powers receiving the first shipments.—Associated Press.

NEW DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Ministers To Ex-Enemy Countries

London, Sept. 16.—Included in the important group of changes in the diplomatic service announced tonight were appointments which follow the official ending of the state of war between the Allies and former Nazi satellites.

Ministers were appointed to four of the ex-enemy countries—Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Finland.

Sir Victor Mallet is to be Ambassador to Rome in succession to Sir Noel Charles, who becomes the British deputy for Italian colonies.

Sir Neville Bland, Ambassador to the Netherlands, is to be succeeded at The Hague by Sir Philip Nichols, the present Ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Pierson Dixon, Principal Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, replaces Sir Ralph Niles at Tangier.

Mr. Oswald Scott, of the Foreign Office Information Department, goes to Helsinki as Minister.

Mr. Thomas Cecil Rapp, until recently deputy to the Economic Mission to Greece, will be Ambassador to Mexico in succession to Mr. Charles Bateman.

Mr. Henry Mack, the United Kingdom representative to the Austrian Government, will be Minister to Austria.

Mr. Alexander Knox Helm, political representative in Hungary, is to be Minister to Hungary.

Mr. John Stensole Bennett, political representative in Bulgaria, becomes Minister to Bulgaria.

MIDDLE EAST OFFICE

Mr. John Troutbeck, has been appointed head of the Middle East office at Cairo in succession to Sir Arnold Overton.

Mr. Troutbeck, an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign Office, was seconded to the Ministry of Economic Warfare during the war and has long been associated with the direction of economic affairs in the Foreign Office.

Mr. Frank Kenyon Roberts, Minister at Moscow, succeeds Mr. Dixon as Principal Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary.

The appointment of Sir Noel Charles as Mr. Ernest Bevin's special deputy for discussions on the future of the Italian colonial empire indicates that Britain expects a conference of special deputies for Italian colonies to be convened in the immediate future. It was considered in diplomatic quarters in London.

Such a move should now be possible without objection from any of the four powers, following the coming into force yesterday of the Italian peace treaty.

SIGNIFICANT TRANSFER

The transfer of Sir Victor Mallet, Ambassador to Spain, who was withdrawn last December following the move of the United Nations to call home the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Government of General Franco, to Rome strongly suggests that the Government sees no prospect of normalising diplomatic relations with Spain in the near future.

The same is true of the transfer of Mr. Thomas Rapp, Minister-designate in Tangier, to Mexico City. Sir Rapp never reached his post in Tangier because Britain's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Albania was cancelled, following reports of the unsatisfactory treatment of the British military mission last year.

Mr. Rapp's appointment indicates that, as in the case of Franco Spain, little hope is entertained in London of a resumption of relations with Albania in the near future.

Tonight's list of appointments also announces that the formal change in status to the normal diplomatic rank of political representatives in all ex-enemy states, except Rumania.

The appointment of the existing political representative in Bucharest, Mr. Adrian Holman, has not yet received the "agreement" of the Rumanian Government and consequently was not included in the announcement.—Reuter.

TROUBLE IN SOLOMONS

London, Sept. 16.—A British aircraft carrier, escorted by a destroyer, has sailed from New Zealand for Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands, to "assist the local authorities in handling an uneasy situation," the Colonial Office disclosed tonight.

Following "disturbances" there, several arrests had been made, but the latest reports showed the situation to be completely under control, the Colonial Office spokesman added.

Though no direct punitive action by the British warships was contemplated, the spokesman said, "it was thought that a show of force to the restive natives" would aid the local authorities.

A movement calling itself the "Marching Rule" had been deluging the authorities and provoking disturbances, though there had been no bloodshed and none was expected, he said.

The "Marching Rule" was a primitive nationalist movement seeking semi-autonomous government for the islands.

Responsible British opinion was that the Solomon Islanders were not yet fit for self-government, he said.

In the temporary absence of a Resident Commissioner, the Solomons Protectorate was administered by Mr. J. F. Nicholl, the Colonial Secretary for Fiji.

It was reported from Australia in July that Guadalcanal Island, the scene of the famed attack by American "leathernecks" during the war, had been "invaded" by natives, armed with spears and blowpipes, who crossed the 80 miles strait from the archipelago.

(This report was later officially denied).—Reuter.

NO SHORTAGE OF SHIPPING

Melbourne, Sept. 16.—Viscount Addison, Minister for Commonwealth relations, declared that shipping could and would be provided to transport the 50,000,000 bushels of wheat promised by Australia to Britain if the harvest came up to expectation.

Speaking at a State Government luncheon he said, "I want to make it clear that any food Australia wishes to send to Britain will not be delayed because of lack of shipping."

He said there seemed to be a misconception that lack of shipping was causing a bottleneck.—Associated Press.

Stirring Call To The United Nations

Flushing Meadows, New York, Sept. 16.—Opening the second regular session of the United Nations General Assembly here today, Senor Oswaldo Aranha, Brazil's senior delegate, who was elected President of the Assembly after two secret ballots, expressing the "world wide misgivings and perplexities," said:

"The truth is that the United Nations has been able to do very little since the last session. The agenda contains a great many items, but it narrows down to the question whether the road selected will lead to peace or strife.

"It is not enough to ban the use of weapons such as gas, atomic bombs and the means of mass destruction.

"We must condemn not only arms but the very thought of war. 'Strife, which is a feature of this postwar period, can and must be terminated by ideas, never by force of arms. We cannot believe in a world of suicide peoples.'"

THE ONLY WAY

Dr. Aranha said: "The problem, therefore, at this time is to impart to all peoples and all men in all regions the thorough confidence in our organisations.

"Only thus can we disarm them for war and equip them for peace."

"Never before in history have so many material and spiritual forces, the greatest ever gathered together in the world, been dedicated to a task of such magnitude.

"I do not know of any greater challenge to wisdom and intelligence and to the goodwill of governments and the peoples of the world."

"Nevertheless, the challenge must be met, for the world may not perish. Europe is an economic tragedy and a military question mark.

"In Asia, the tide of blood which the war swept in has not ebbed away."

TASK IS CLEAR

"The task is clear and irrefutable. The world which is present here can become divided only through a lack of understanding among men, through the 'misgovernment' of peoples, or through the failure of part to meet world expectations.

"The natural and historic trend in human destinies is always toward unity and solidarity."

In the election of Senor Aranha to the presidency, two ballots were taken, the first giving Senor Aranha 28 votes, Australia's Dr. Herbert

20 votes, and Czechoslovakia's Mr. Jan Masaryk six. As this was not a two-thirds majority, the second ballot was taken.

The Luxembourg representative, M. Joseph Bech, was elected chairman of the influential Political Committee of the United Nations Assembly here today.

He was proposed by Britain, while Russia proposed Poland's Foreign Minister, Dr. Zygmunt Modzelewski.

Six countries were elected provisional members: China, Britain, the United States, France and Soviet Russia.—Reuter.

RATINGS RESCUED

Paris, Sept. 16.—Fourteen French naval ratings were rescued today off the bleak Brittany coast from a windswept, wave-battered rock to which they had been clinging for three days after their ship, a French naval tug based on Brest—can ground and sink.

Their strength had almost given out when they were seen by two trawlers which had put out from the small Brittany fishing village of Kerity-Pennmarc'h.

One trawler took thirteen men aboard and the other saved the petty officer who had captained the tug.—Reuter.

Latest Sports Items

Richards' 200th Winner

Leicester, Sept. 16.—Riding Mrs Gwyn, a five to four on favourite, in a desperate finish to win the Regworth Nursery Handicap Plate at Leicester today by a head, Gordon Richards, champion jockey, scored his 200th winner of the season on the course where he rode his first winner.

Richards has topped the 200 mark six times previously and has ridden well over 3,000 winners during his career. His record for a season, 259 winners, which he rode in 1939, breaking Fred Archer's total of 240 winners, which had stood for 48 years.—Reuter.

SELLING OUT

London, Sept. 16.—It was learned today that the Maharajah of Gwalior is giving up his extensive racing interests in England and his horses in training and 23 yearlings and 40 brood mares are to be offered at the first October sales at Newmarket.

The Maharajah, who never leaves India, has had little success with his horses since he started racing here in 1940. He won only two small races last year and his only win this season was when Cinder Apple won at Leicester yesterday.

His horses in England have been trained by Mr. C. Halsey, Mr. T. E. Leader and Mr. H. Wragg.—Reuter.

Soccer Results

London, Sept. 16.—The results of football games played tonight were: Third Division North: Oldham Athletic 0 Hartlepool 2. Irish League, Gold Cup final: Belfast Celtic 2 Distillery 0. Rugby Union: Redruth 0 Swansea 9.

Rugby League: Yorkshire Cup, first round, second leg: Batley 3 Hull 0 (Batley eliminated). Keighley 8 Hunslet 13 (Hunslet eliminated).—Reuter.

Stymie Rule To Stay

London, Sept. 16.—The stymie rule in golf is neither to be altered or abolished. This was decided at the autumn business meeting of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews today.

The meeting arrived at this decision after consideration of the replies from the Dominion golf authorities to the Joint Advisory Council and the Golf Unions in this country, which had been requested to express their views.

It was announced that the rules of the Golf Committee were now engaged in revising and re-drafting the rules of golf and the committee considered the grouping together of the rules for both match and medal play by the Americans sound.—Reuter.

Champions Winning

London, Sept. 16.—The close of play scores in the last first-class cricket match of the season at Kennington Oval were: Middlesex 543 for nine declared. The Rest 246 (Emmett 89, Evans 70, Gray 40 for 47, Compton 40 for 57) and 309 for eight (Yardley 71, Washbrook 81).—Reuter.

ANYWAY, IT'S AN AMUSING STORY

Amsterdam, Sept. 16.—This story, attested to by many stolid Dutch burghers, begins in a railway train running from Rotterdam to Dordrecht last week.

One of the passengers—no one seems able to give an exact description—mentioned rather idly that he could force anyone by sheer concentration to do his bidding. Pull the emergency cord of the train, for example.

Discreet Dutch laughter at that—but suddenly one of the passengers arose and, as though in a dream, as though fighting will stronger than his own, does pull the emergency cord.

When the conductor has been soothed and has departed, the stranger says it really is nothing at all, that for a bet, say, 500 guilders, he will disrupt an entire symphony concert by working his will from a seat in the audience.

The bet is covered and the Hague Orchestra concert, at Scheveningen selected.

The man was in the audience when the solo violinist, San Svaap, began to play. This much is true: critics wondered about Svaap's poor fingering and his astonishing uncertainty. Applause was mild.

Then Janine Well, the French pianist, began to fumble in the midst of a Saint-Saens concerto. She even

had to ask the conductor, Ignaz Neumark, point out her place in the score.

The first oboe said he felt "something strange in the air" during the concert.

The stranger collected his bets in a nearby café, so the story goes. Conductor Neumark said he thought the poor performances, while unusual, had a normal explanation since over the greatest artists were sometimes erratic. The Dutch psychologist, Dr. W. C. H. Tenhaeff, said it was possible for a hypnotist or telepathist to wield such influence, but he would like to meet the man first.

But the stranger had disappeared.—United Press.

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"ALWAYS IN MY HEART"

Every Wednesday in the Telegraph:

Sitting on the Fence

by NATHANIEL GUBBINS

WHEN scientists are not planning to kill us by the million in a thousand horrible ways, they are planning something even worse to keep us alive long after our allotted span and long after we have reduced ourselves and those who once loved us to a condition of savage boredom.

According to one of the papers I read every day, 41 scientists have "banded together" for this joyous task. They are "searching for a means of extending the span of human life to a hundred years and beyond."

Why? Don't ask me. I know nothing of the lives of scientists. All I know is that they're never happy unless they're interfering with nature.

About seven or eight hundred years ago the average expectation of life was about 30 years. Life was violent but exciting—at least for the privileged classes. It began early and usually ended early. There was no time for boredom.

At 18 a young man might have fought a hundred battles, won the hearts of a hundred damsels, spent a hundred roasting nights stuffing himself with meat and wine.

Before he became gouty or rheumatic, or before his wife hated the sound of his footsteps in the hall, somebody cracked him on the head and finished him.

Or somebody murdered him in the night (homicide being a recognised custom at the time), or he died quickly of some disease caused by lack of sanitation, gluttony or the absence of medical aid.

In fact, life was so short that nobody lived long enough to become a scientist. In this way, the world was saved from the telephone, the radio, the internal combustion engine, the atom bomb and many other horrors for many hundreds of years.

Later on, when murder became a punishable offence, when no man could kill another for an insult (or just because he didn't like his face) and get away with it; when doctors acquired greater skill and knowledge; when sanitation was invented and food purified; when a man was not even allowed to take his own life without paying a penalty if he survived the attempt, the expectation of life increased until it is now between 50 and 60 years.

For the benefit of readers who also know nothing about statistics, averages and other things that delight dull people, this does not mean that the majority of people die between the ages of 50 and 60.

It means that this is the normal expectation of life for the normal man, including the incidences of accident, war and fatal disease.

It also means that many thousands live to be 80 or 100 years. So, when the scientists have increased the expectation of life to 100, there will be many old ladies and gentlemen of nearly 200 creeping around the world and telling stories that were funny in, say, 1899.

I hope that any old people who may be reading this will not jump to the conclusion that I am sneering at old age. For one thing I am no longer young myself, and for another I have always preferred the mellow wisdom and tolerance of old people to the ignorance and intolerance of the young.

All I ask old people is "Would you like to live another 100 years or more? If so, have you considered what it means?"

At the office

ALL right, old Mr. Frumpington, barring accidents, you are going to live another 100 years.

You are 80 now. Old Mrs. F. is 78. And she is also going to live another 100 years.

Feeling nervous already? No? O.K. Let us go on to the bitter end. Maybe you think you're going to live this extra 100 years in peaceful retirement, watching the silly world go by, handing out advice nobody takes and telling people what you did in the Boer War?

But you're not, Mr. Frumpington. The scientists have seen to that. They're going to keep you fit, active and useful, like that terrible old man in the pre-war advertisements for somebody's health salts.

Which means you've got to work. So put that pipe down, Mr. F., and get cracking. And take off those old flannel bags and put on the pin stripes and the black jacket. The 8.25 is still running and you know it's ten minutes' walk to the station even if you hurry.

Perhaps you've almost forgotten the 25 to town and the 6.45 back in the evening? For 60 years you

caught these trains, winter and summer, sometimes shivering on the platform, stamping your cold feet, or wedged in a stuffy compartment on a hot evening with no room to move your arms or turn the pages of your evening paper.

That's going on for another 100 years. Mr. Frumpington, morning and evening six days a week except for holidays. Let's see. Six days a week for a year amounts to 312 days. Multiply that by 100 and you have 31,200 days of it before the great mercy falls upon you and carries you off.

At the office there are old fellows like yourself who have been dragged out of retirement. But there are also young fellows, some young enough to be your grandsons.

These young men are the executives now and old men like you are back where you began, at the filing cabinets.

"Frumpington."

"Ninety-five years ago you were told not to file 'cinema' under 'K'. Will you never learn?"

"Sorry, sir."

"Frumpington."

"Sir."

"In the last 81 years you have been late three times. It's not good enough, Frumpington."

"Sorry, sir."

"Frumpington."

"Sir."

"You'll have to wake up, Frumpington. Slackness cannot be tolerated here. A man only 112 years old applied for your job yesterday."

At home

AT home there will be old Mrs. Frumpington, now close on 150, still telling you to wipe your feet on the mat. Still telling you what a frightful state you left the bathroom in that morning, still sniffing at your breath to satisfy herself that you've not been out with the chaps.

Still reminding things you said 120 years ago and catching you out in a contradiction.

For it's no use killing a dog that is dead, and Mrs. Cottle was broken beyond further breaking.

Everybody forgot the slander—everybody except Mrs. Cottle. After bearing her loneliness for the whole of last winter she got up one morning before it was light, and wide awake, but with a sleep walker's resolution, walked quickly down to the beach.

The tide was out. The wet rocks just glistened in the anemic light. The poor woman scrambled over the shingle. She fell and cut her knee; she got up, indifferent to the hurt but straightening her stocking, and in a few moments she stood on the sand where the waves were reaching where the surf was withdrawing.

She did not turn but walked towards them; then, with a final gesture to convention, she undid her shoes and placed them neatly together. Then she walked on into the waves with her hands held high above her head.

THE MUSIC PLAYED

WE found her next evening washed in with the incoming tide. And as we carried her body into the cottage I saw the prisoner-of-war standing by the gate. He followed us in. We laid the body down.

He went straight to a cupboard; and, in a second, the room was full of music. "Poor old dear," he said. "She was so fond of music. I built her this wireless of an evening—that's what I was doing here!"

Then, before we could comment, he went out through the back door which is not visible from the road, leaving the music playing and us all standing by the body of the woman whom gossip had blown into her grave.

She will also remember a dish you liked 80 years ago, and you will still get it three times a week maybe for another 80 years.

Every evening she will say exactly the same things she has been saying every evening for more than a century.

Every evening she will be saying exactly the same things for possibly another century.

There will also be macabre occasions when she remembers your age-old romance and becomes sentimental.

"Do you remember our wedding day?"

"What, dear?"

"Our wedding day."

"Well, it's a long time ago, dear, isn't it?"

"I can remember every detail. Your father was very drunk."

"Was he, dear?"

"And I was sick in the train."

"Your father's cheap champagne, I expect, dear."

"Do you remember when Ronnie was born?"

"Who?"

"Are you telling me you've forgotten the name of your eldest son?"

"It's a long time ago, dear."

"Ronnie weighed 9½ lb. when he was born."

"Did he, dear?"

"He was the image of his grandfather. Do you remember?"

"It's a hundred years since I've seen Ronnie, dear, and nearly 150 since I saw your father."

"A hundred and twenty-three years ago you said you loved me."

"Did I, dear?"

"Do you still?"

"In a way, dear."

At the club

WELL, Mr. Frumpington, how are you doing? Want to quit?

Start from the office and the home, other things will have to be endured for another 100 years. The club, for instance. And Christmas. At the club those who have not fallen under buses after a club dinner or been murdered by somebody, massacred by their funny stories, will be living another 100 years. So there will be little room for new members.

The actor who knew Sir Henry Irving and everything he said (and probably didn't say) will be repeating it all over again in 2047. And on most days in all the years between.

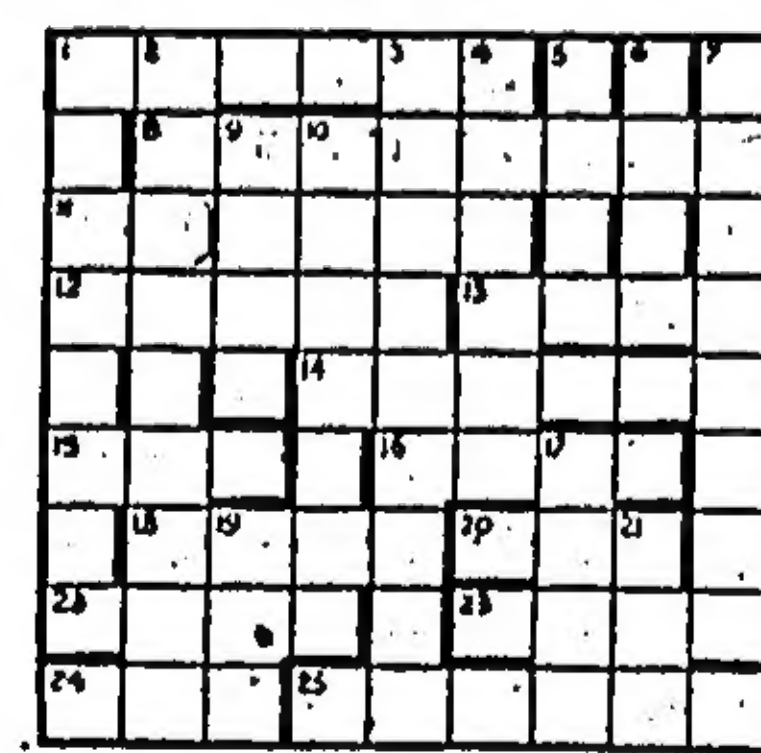
The writer who had his first manuscript rejected in 1901 (and, fortunately for the reading public, is still getting manuscripts rejected) will still be telling you what this stupid editor said about it and still be quoting passages from it in 2001. And on most days in all the years between.

As for Christmas, Mr. Frumpington, I don't know what you're going to do about Christmas.

At your house there will be your own children, all between 150 and 180; your grandchildren, mostly centenarians; your great-grandchildren, round about 70 and 80; some boisterous youngsters between 40 and 50 who will also be your descendants, right down to toddlers climbing on your knees and playing "Fingers Up Your Nose."

When, in your agony, you look round at your massed descendants and realise that at some time in the past they have all played "Fingers Up Your Nose"—with your nose, Mr. Frumpington—then I think you will not look forward to another Christmas, but will pray for the great mercy to fall upon you.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- 20 Such a gentle now. (3)
21 In a way era dry up. (4)
22 Eternal. (4)
23 "I'm a" when got from a "spu" (3)
24 No, not an instruction to the accountant. (6)
Down
1 She can take a tip with the east. (8)
2 Because a husband in this is doesn't follow that he gets children. (8)
3 Card game. (6)
4 Port or sherry, madam! (4)
5 The noisy part of the legend. (3)
6 Was the spelt child does really well. (6)
7 Often dropped by the ship. (7)
8 Synonym for 20. (3)
9 This question may impress the car. (3)
Across
1 With R.E. in a middle you twist. (6)
2 The lizard of tropical America. (6)
3 Her may give counsel when upset. (4)
4 Catch the lady. (6)
5 Feature of the farthest. (3)
6 Sweet-smelling money? (4)
7 Tour. (4)

"JAN" EXAMINES THE 'BLIGHT OF COUNTRY GOSSIP'

The lonely Widow and the POW

WHAT causes the wind to blow? I used to think that it was caused by the branches of the trees beating the air and pushing it along. But that explanation does not tally with all the facts; for I have noticed that the windiest place in the whole of Devon is Yennon Moor where no trees grow at all.

Then what drives it here year after year, blowing across the peat bogs forever combing the wild flax wool, searing the stunted gorse and copping the hills with a shawl of withered bracken?

It can't be the trees. But now I know the reason.

It is plain that all winds, gales and breezes are caused by women, as they stand in pairs and draw their breath in with indignation at the first hint of any rumour, then let it out again in a slow sigh of satisfaction as rumour settles down to solid gossip.

Thus women are as bellows and that is why the wind blows across Yennon Moor. For at its edge stands, or rather slopes, the old market town of Yatterworthy. Here everybody prospers on everybody else's business and nobody is safe from slander, not even the buried, much less the unborn.

But country gossip is a cruel thing; a spiteful blight worse than any weed to uproot, more fertile than a sow and noisier than its unfed farrow. Only last week poor Mrs. Cottle was blown into her grave by the wind that rose in Yatterworthy gossip.

FORCE OF THE TIDE

IT happened this way. When old Farmer Cottle died his wife moved into a cottage and let the farm. Before the sod had sunk on her husband's grave, rumour suggested and gossip confirmed that

Mrs. Cottle was a shame to our respectable village.

Somebody hinted that she should be hounded from us or thrown into the sea. Without listening I heard it all; one can no more be obvious to the surf of gossip as it frets against one's mind than turn the tide back.

It appeared that a young prisoner-of-war who worked on a neighbouring farm had been seen going into Mrs. Cottle's cottage on an evening. Nobody had seen him come out. Probably because nobody was looking.

TONGUES TEASED TEETH
But that is of no consequence. Rumour needs no evidence, nor slander substantiation. Before a few days had passed the breath was drawn in and the breath was blown out and the wind got up and strode across the moor to beat relentlessly at poor Mrs. Cottle's door, and it knocked this way: He said that she'd said that I'd said that she'd said that he'd seen—or so they said.

Heads nodded, tongues teased teeth and the whole village felt a little more virtuous by finding out another's failings.

In a few days Mrs. Cottle dared not show her face outside the garden gate; the grocer who used to leave her provisions on the kitchen table now left them on the road and the wind got up and strode across the moor to beat relentlessly at poor Mrs. Cottle's door, and it knocked this way: He said that she'd said that I'd said that she'd said that he'd seen—or so they said.

And what made the persecution worse was that Mrs. Cottle had been the church organist, and I suppose, the final blow was when she was not asked to go on the church outing.

After that the poor woman even stopped weeding her little garden. The prisoner-of-war ceased visiting the cottage, and the wind subsided or shifted round to sear somebody else's privacy.

NANCY Let's Get Acquainted



By Ernie Bushmiller



By Ernie Bushmiller



By Ernie Bushmiller



When You Feel Tired and Restless

Ask For **ELLIOTTS TONIC**
On Sale at All Dispensaries



Women BEAUTY ARTS

This Space Every Day
By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Gloria Saunders for Lois Leeds.

"DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—I have a very bad complexion, it has pimples. I do not use any kind of cream. I do use lotion and powder. I have drab, ugly, oily hair. I have tried various shampoos but nothing seems to help. I am 18—JO."

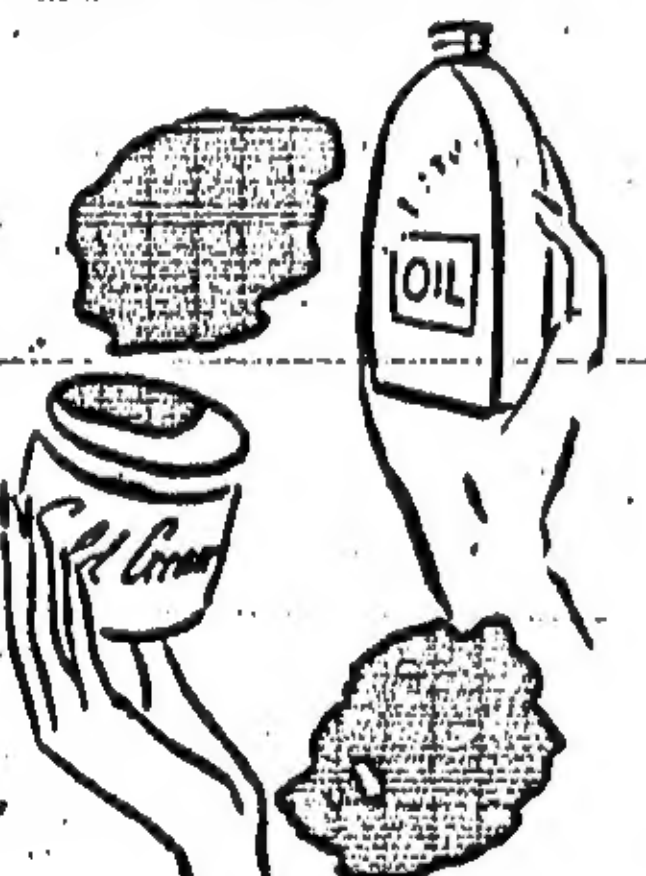
Your scalp is probably the root of your trouble. Creams and lotions are not what you need. Fresh air, rest and proper food are important, plus the proper care of scalp, hair and skin.

Weekly shampoos with a good liquid soapless shampoo. Brush your hair before and after each shampoo. Wash, brush and comb at once and dry by an open window. Dry your hair with a lintless towel and, if possible, sit in the sun.

Massage the scalp with the fingertips, every night and every morning, then brush your hair. Use witch-hazel to cleanse the scalp between shampoos. Clean the inside of your hats or, better still, go without a hat. Clean your skin with frequent soap-and-water washings. Always rinse with clear, cold water and pat with witch-hazel. Eat sensibly. Cut out sweets, such as sodas and pies and rich desserts.

You need lots of water, both inside and out. Eat fresh vegetables and drink fruit juices. Take long

Minute Makeup by GABRIELLE



"A bit of oil, 'finger-printed' over the skin before makeup, gives a softness that is important. A few drops of oil, blended with a cream foundation, give an ideal finish to the dry skin and tend to erase the wrinkles and lines. And, note—cream rouge and a creamy lipstick.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"We might as well turn right around and go home—the children have emptied all the picnic baskets on the way!"

After 3 Years, Job's Story Cured Him

The patient had suffered for three years when he took his troubles to the doctor. "Remember Job?" said the doctor, and he went over some of Job's troubles. A few weeks later the patient was cured.

STAR-QUOTES

ALAN LADD ANSWERS THIS QUESTION:

QUESTION:—What question would you like to ask your fans, if you could put a question to them?



ALAN LADD

THERE is one important thing I would like my fans to tell me, and that is their honest opinion on this—how would they like the idea of me being other than the hard-as-steel man-of-action they've come to know?

Let me explain better. I would like to play a love story, or more exactly a man of my sort in a love story. Any kind of a love story—love of a man for a woman, a man for an ideal, even a man for his faithful dog—but as long as love and devotion are the incentive for what he does.

Love At A Minimum

The love theme usually has been portrayed at a minimum in my pictures. I'd like a change from these suspense dramas which I've been handed.

I think it would provide a new flavour to my career and lead to solid, powerful stuff.

Never did I dream I'd make a success as the cold-as-steel, ruthless adventurer, tough with women and the world. "This Gun For Hire," with my successful performance of a killer "at odds," did the trick. I've been portraying that type, with variations, of course, ever since. The public wanted me that way.

China Pilot

In my forthcoming picture, "Salomon," I am a cardman of action who knows the score, an ex-fighter from the China war zone, who takes no pushing around whether it be from frail Veronica Lake or the machinations of a huge money smuggling scheme. I am a tough guy in "Wild Harvest," too, as my co-stars Robert Preston, Dorothy Lamour and Lloyd Nolan could tell you.

I don't say I am a fan of kooky, sexy stories. They are not for me. But I do feel I've sold myself short on love. I thank my lucky stars for what the public has done for me. But I don't want people to tire of me. I want to give them something different without taking away the illusion of the tough guy they wanted me to be. So, if I could, I'd like to ask my fans—would they like to see me in a love story away from fists, murder, blood and dire deeds? Or wouldn't they?

(LIZABETH SCOTT will answer a question vital to her career on Saturday.)

DOCTORS MEET IN LONDON

London is once again the location of an important conference. Nearly 1,400 doctors from 29 countries are attending the World Congress of Physicians—the first to be held in London since 1913.

The conference will review the progress made in each of its eight divisions during and since the war and will thus be able to pool medical information. Lord Moran, President of the Royal College of Physicians, explained that as medical men in many countries had been cut off from the developments during the war, the Congress would provide a focal point for describing the many remarkable advances that had been made and for diffusing knowledge throughout the world.

Particular reference will be made to the control of acute infections and the application of sulphonamides and penicillin.

The eight divisions in which discussions are taking place are, general medicine, neurology, cardiology, paediatrics, psychiatry and social medicine.

Such meetings as this are always fruitful and in the circumstances the present one is expected to be particularly so, for the reduction of illness may be considered a fundamental contribution to the solution of many of today's economic problems all over the world. Before the war, in Britain alone the total cost of sickness was about £300,000,000 annually.

Dr. G. Gladstone Robertson, of Glasgow, tells about it in The Lancet.

His patient was a 68-year-old Jewish storekeeper, who had extensive "eczema" for three years.

He lived alone in a single apartment. Twenty-five years before, at 41, he had married a beautiful 17-year-old girl.

His business prospered. He made over everything to his young wife—all his assets except a few hundred pounds.

Another Man

When he was 61 and his wife 37 she turned to another man.

"She dispossessed her husband of his entire fortune and sacked him from his own business," Dr. Robertson says.

"Litigation had followed and dragged on for two years. His capital had been exhausted, which had prevented him from contesting the matter further.

"In the course of the discussion I said to him: 'You will no doubt have heard of Job?'"

"He replied, 'Doctor, I was born and brought up in Russia. I knew the Book of Job almost by heart before I was 14 years old.'"

"I said, 'Then you will remember that he was the most prosperous man in the land, and that he regarded his great wealth as no more than a just reward for his righteousness?'"

Greatly Moved

The doctor went on to recall the other tribulations of Job. And he ended:

"You will remember how his soul was torn in pieces. It was beyond his comprehension how such a disaster could befall a man so good as he."

"You will remember his body itched and oozed intolerably. So has yours."

The patient was greatly moved and said nothing for a few minutes.

"Then, with tears in his eyes, he informed me that I was the first person to give him some inkling into the real nature of his trouble."

"Six weeks later the skin became normal. There has been no recurrence."

Footnote: Dr. Robertson refers to cases noted by Dr. J. L. Halliday in 1944. The patients were middle-aged men who suddenly contracted dermatitis after great misfortune.

They were good-looking men and felt that their troubles were undeserved. Dr. Halliday labelled the condition "Job's dermatitis."

MILK IS BEST FOR TEETH

University of Wisconsin biochemists are having a hard time finding anything better than milk for preserving the teeth.

For three years the scientists have been trying to find some food element which will protect teeth. So far, they have found little proof that adding fluoride to a city's drinking water is an adequate answer. But they have discovered that whole milk does the job.

Dr. C. A. Elvehjem, chairman of the biochemistry department, says the addition of fluoride to drinking water in the quantity generally proposed—one part fluoride to one million parts water—had no effect whatever on rats used in the experiment. When the amount of fluoride was raised to five parts, dental cavities were reduced by one-half, but faint stripes appeared on the rat teeth. When raised to 10 parts or higher, the number of cavities dropped but the teeth changed colour and eventually became chalky.

The scientists found that milk produced much more positive results. Rats fed on milk-enriched diet developed only one cavity each or none at all.

DESERT REUNION AT ALBERT HALL

A reunion of Western Desert and Desert Air Force personnel is to be held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on Saturday, September 20. It is hoped that some 8,000 serving and ex-service officers and men of the Desert Air Force will be present, including naval, air formation signals and airfield construction personnel who served alongside the Desert Air Force between 1940 and 1945.

Rupert and the Jumping Fish—21



McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Don't Guess When There's Safe Play

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

THIS is the third of a series of simple plays which too many people miss. Some players lost the contract on today's hand through carelessness, some through greed. North's bid over one spade is open to discussion. I do not consider his hand strong enough to bid three spades. I would prefer four spades rather than three, or maybe two diamonds. In the latter case South would have bid two spades and North then could have bid four spades. However, it is the play in which we are more interested.

Declarer lost the first two club tricks quickly, but he ruffed the third club. Now he thought that his whole problem was to guess the diamond finesse correctly. But

♠ J8652	♥ 5	♦ A1092	♣ K73
♠ KQ4	♥ 10983	♦ 765	♣ AQJ6
♠ 84	♥ 2	♦ 4	♣ 10984
♠ 10984	♥ 10983	♦ 765	♣ AQJ6
♠ AQ743	♥ AJ7	♦ KJ3	♣ 52

Tournament—Neither vul.
South West North East
4 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
Opening—4 ♠ 2

why resort to a guess when there is a safe way to play (4)? He should cash the ace of hearts and ruff a heart in dummy.

If he takes the spade finesse now, West will win, lead back either the king of hearts or a spade, and declarer still will have to guess the diamond.

After ruffing the heart in dummy, declarer should lead a spade and go right up with the ace. Next he should ruff his third heart in dummy, and then lead a spade.

It is immaterial now who wins it. In this case West will have to win and if he leads back a heart or a club, declarer can ruff in dummy and discard a diamond from his own hand. If West leads a diamond, declarer has a free finesse.

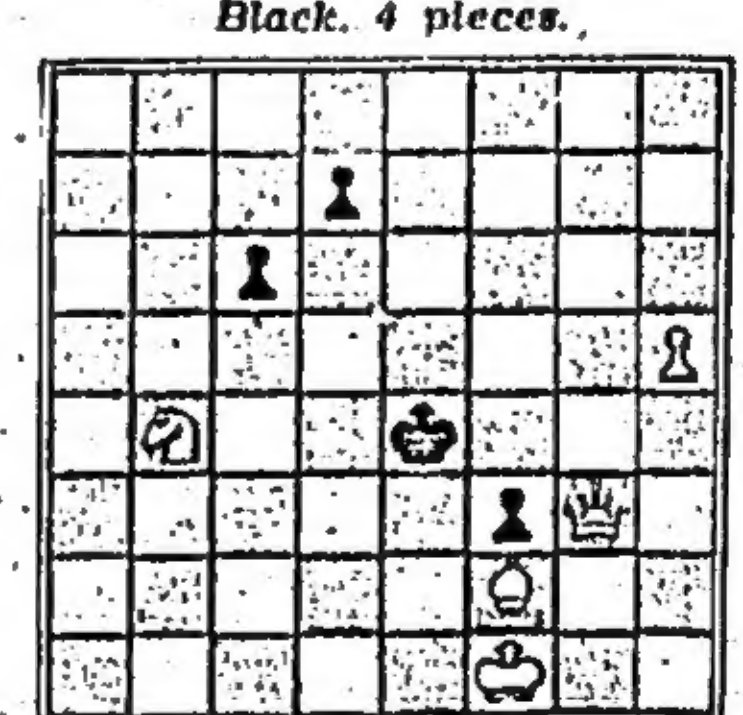
CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. How long did it take the Jews to reach the Promised Land?
2. What is a chuckle?
3. How many volcanoes are there in the world?
4. What is the official language of Haiti?
5. What drug has been called by narcotic officials "The Assassin of Youth?"
6. What is the national dance of Poland?

(Answers on Page 4)

CHESS PROBLEM

By J. HANG
Black, 4 pieces.



White, 5 pieces.
White to play and mate in three. Solution to yesterday's problem.

1. Q-B2, any; 2. Q, R, B, or K mates.

Lee Theatre

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Jules Levy presents
WILLIAM BENDIX
(gives his greatest performance)
SUSAN HAYWARD

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JOHN LODER-DOROTHY COMINGORE
Roman Bohman-Alan Napier-Tom Fadden
Screen play by Robert D. Andrews and Doris Dunning
Directed by Joseph H. Mabel
Produced by Jules Levy
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THE MOST STIRRING ADVENTURE DRAMA THAT EVER BLAZED OUT OF THE WEST!

FABULOUS ADVENTURE!

THE DESPERADOES

with Randolph Scott
Gene Ford-Clare Trevor
Erlyn Haynes-Edgar Buchanan
A COLUMBIA PICTURE
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ROUGH ROMANTICI RIOTOUS! Gun-Blazing Drama! M-G-M's Big Western Thriller

2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

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BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

Veto Is Thorny Issue Before U.N. Assembly

(By DEWITT MACKENZIE)

New York, Sept. 17.—The most dangerous issue—and the most difficult—which the United Nations General Assembly faces as it begins its new session here is that of the veto, by means of which any one of the Big Five—Russia, Britain, France, China and the United States—can kill a majority decision of the Security Council.

Chinese Buy Mosquitoes

Toronto, Sept. 16.—The sale of 150 war surplus Canadian Mosquito aircraft to the Chinese Government for \$2,500 each "is understood to have been completed," the Toronto news paper, Globe and Mail reported from Ottawa today.

A spokesman of the Canadian External Affairs Department declined to comment on the report beyond saying the sale of arms to a foreign country was always a "fickly question."

Cut Civil Servants, Urges Tory

Liverpool, Sept. 16.—Lord Woolton, chairman of the Conservative Party, in a speech today called upon the Government to help solve the nation's manpower crisis by reducing by 50 percent the number of civil servants.

"It is time the Government put its own business in order. It is trying to do so much, control so many things, that the cost of government is making itself a millstone around the neck of commercial enterprise."

The Tory chairman urged the Government to:

1. Decentralize control from London to the provinces, "where industry is carried on."
2. Give civil servants instructions and authority to make decisions.
3. Prune regulations governing commerce "so the people in industry will feel responsible for the success of this national effort."
4. Reduce national expenditure and income tax.

"Instead of increasing the severity of food rationing, tell the traders to go out and get the goods the country needs," he urged. "Remember it was the businessmen who made the prosperity of Britain."

Union Endorses Cripps Plan

London, Sept. 15.—Britain's largest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, with 1,250,000 members, endorsed Sir Stafford Cripps' export programme on Tuesday.

The Union's Executive Council adopted a resolution pledging the full support of the members of the union in the all-out production drive designed to step up exports.

TWO MILLION ITALIANS ON STRIKE; UNREST SPREADS

Rome, Sept. 16.—Italy's Rightist government "examined" the internal situation and public order tonight in face of unprecedented labour agitation which has put more than 2,000,000 men on strike and provoked guarded talk of revolution.

Premier Alcide De Gasperi, in his worst difficulty since ousting the Communists and Left Wing Socialists from his government three and a half months ago, and the Minister of the Interior, Mario Scelba, conferred on the forces of public order at their disposal.

The situation has been made even more tense by Saturday's impending National Leftist-sponsored "day of protest" against the Government, by warnings from Communist labour chiefs that the present industry-wide strikes were "only the beginning of the struggle" and by the adamant refusal of employers to make further concessions to labour.

Eight-Day-Old Deadlock
Giuseppe di Vittorio, militant Communist secretary of the Labour Federation, told the United Press that if the million-men farm strike was not settled "within 24 hours, I will order the workers to go to harvest the rice and sugar beet crops and turn them over to the government."

"There will be trouble if the proprietors try to stop us from proving our interest in the needs of the country," he added.

Observers reason that the government's eight-day-old deadlock with

So far, the peace organisation has been rendered virtually impotent by Russia's persistent employment of this power, which was adopted originally as a necessary safeguard but was intended for use only in extreme emergencies. Continuation of this situation must ultimately mean the death of the United Nations, or at least over-present obstruction.

The Soviet tactics of obstruction have coincided with Moscow's launching of the world revolution for the spread of Communism, and have been duplicated in Allied councils in Europe. The result is that peace and economic recovery have been stymied and it is significant that Communism provides the soil in which Communism thrives.

A recent report turned out by American Congressional and State Department co-operation for Congressional committee in Europe, says the Russians are the "principal obstructionists" in the Allied Control Council in Berlin.

Sovietisation Of Europe

The report states that Russian-occupied Eastern Germany is "well on the way to be Sovietised," and says that the "suspicion is now possible that the USSR covets Austria in order to isolate Czechoslovakia, and penetrate Italy and Germany as well as other parts of Western Europe, with Communist politics and economics."

Germany, little more hunger, declared the statement, the Communists could dominate France, Turkey and Greece.

"So we see that the consistent use of the veto power by Russia in the United Nations fits in with a broad strategy of obstruction which is favourable to the Communist world revolution that is now in full swing. Meanwhile, the Soviet delegation has been able to use the United Nations as a sounding board for dissemination of Communist ideas."

However, the Russian delegation has been able to use the United Nations as a sounding board for dissemination of Communist ideas.

The hope, of course is to secure reform without remodelling the United Nations, but it will take a big inspiration to evolve an idea that will work.

A year ago, the British Foreign Minister, Mr. Ernest Bevin, proposed to the Big Five Foreign Ministers that a "code of conduct" be adopted in connection with use of the veto. But Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Molotov vetoed this.

Since then, there has been an eager search for a way to alter the United Nations Charter so as to preclude abuse of the veto, but the Charter cannot be changed in face of a Russian veto.

and so repair the adverse trade balance soon before mounting inflation and labour agitation brings Italy to economic chaos.

They voiced these alternatives:
1. Resignation of the de Gasperi government and enlargement of the Cabinet.
2. Diminution of Communist pressure to get back into the government.

3. Further concessions by management despite labour's over-increasing demands outpacing the country's crumbling economy.
4. Spreading labour agitation along the same lines as at present until labour heads on to a physical showdown with the government.

100 Plants Idle
More than 100 industrial plants are hit by the metal workers' two-day strike. The Fiat auto works, Breda aeroplane plants, shipyards at Genoa, La Spezia and Taranto, the Cogno smelting works in Piedmont and the Pignone foundry at Florence, the Ilva Piombino blast furnaces, and Plaggio auto works at Genoa are the largest firms unaffected.

Four United States Congressmen studying needs for future United States aid to Italy toured Turin industrial plants yesterday, and conferred with the United States Consul-General, Mr. Richard Haven, on the agricultural strike before going to Milan and Trieste today.

The entire Rightist press stressed the importance of the Committee's visit and warned labour groups that Italy's appeals for American dollar aid would be jeopardised by strikes in agriculture and industry.

DAB... AND FLOUNDER



CHINESE LEADER HINTS OF PRO-SOVIET POLICY SHIFT

Nanking, Sept. 16.—Dr Sun Fo, Vice-President of China, in an interview with the United Press today, said that China would consider whether it would be better for her to side with Soviet Russia or the United States after learning the results of the Wedemeyer report to President Truman.

GANDHI SEES CIVIL WAR IN INDIA

New Delhi, Sept. 16.—Mahatma Gandhi, in an address today to the militant Hindu organisation, Rashtriya Seval Sangh, warned: "If Pakistan persists in wrong-doing, there is bound to be war between India and Pakistan."

"Why didn't Pakistan plead with the Hindus and Sikhs to remain in their homes and ensure their safety?" Mr. Gandhi asked. "Why couldn't they in India ensure the safety of every Moslem? Today both parties appear to have gone crazy."

He added that the result could be nothing but destruction and misery.

The Indian leader concluded that if he moved his way, there would be no military forces, not even police.

Meanwhile, the Indian Premier, Pandit Nehru, expressed surprise at the assertion yesterday by the Pakistan Premier, Liaquat Ali Khan, that Pakistan was surrounded on all sides by forces "out to destroy us."

Mr. Nehru said: "None of us thought of treating Pakistan as an enemy, or harboured intentions of destroying it. It is unfortunate such a motive has been imputed to the Government of India."

Mr. Nehru confessed that there was more in the Pakistan Premier's charge than there had been dereliction of duty by military and police forces in East Punjab, but denied that the India Government had not lived up to decisions made with the Moslems at Lahore.

VIEW OF ROYAL WEDDING GIFTS

London, Sept. 16.—The King and Queen will give an afternoon party at St. James' Palace on Monday, November 17, to view the wedding presents for the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

The next day, November 18, the King and Queen will give a "pre-wedding party" at Buckingham Palace in the evening.

Australian Women's Gift
Melbourne, Sept. 16.—The wedding gift to Princess Elizabeth from the women of Victoria will be a jewel case made of Victorian fine gold engraved with the coat of arms of Victoria and an inscription.

The Turin secretary of the striking metal workers announced: "This strike is simply a warning. If this should not be sufficient, the FOM will not hesitate to adopt all means at its disposal."

He said there was "no imminent danger of strike breaking because we have placed persuasion, committees in every factory to confront any eventual dissenters."

"Persuasion" Committees.
One Rightist newspaper noted wryly that "persuasion committees" were used by Fascism and "they were usually quite persuasive because somebody always carried a gun."

The de Gasperi-Scelba conference was, obviously motivated by public speculation on the possibility of the internal crisis leading to revolution. Nothing was revealed on the outcome of the meeting, but a survey of Ministry of the Interior officials disclosed that the government had these military forces at its disposal:

Carabinieri—63,000 trained men, excellently equipped with sub-machine-guns and pistols, light and heavy machine-guns and light artillery pieces, 60 tanks, 300 armoured cars of British make and 700 trucks. The Carabinieri have a first class munitions and arms store.

Police—50,000 men, not so well trained as the Carabinieri and not well equipped. The police carry only small arms have 30 small tanks and 20 armoured cars, but no heavy armament.

BRIGUE AND TENDE AREAS NOW FRENCH

Tende, via Paris, Sept. 16.—The French tricolour flew officially today over the Alpine communes of Tende and Brigue as this border area reverted to French control after 87 years under Italian rule.

The official transfer, provided for in the Italian peace treaty, took place at midnight as French gendarmes and customs guards took up their posts along the mountain frontier, replacing their Italian counterparts.

French civil and military authorities, coming from Nice, toured Tende, Brigue and other flag-bedecked communities of the new French territory this afternoon, and took part in ceremonies celebrating their return. A big official banquet will be held here this evening.

The territorial switch was effected without violence. Several isolated incidents were reported when groups of young Frenchmen hissed Italian functionaries as they crossed the border and demonstrated before the home of the former Italian mayor of Tende, M. Ange Durero. The police threw up guards before the former mayor's residence and the demonstrators quickly dispersed.

French officials were moving fast into the area today to take up where the Italians left off. Communications are nearing completion of telephone and telegraph lines to connect the isolated communities with Nice.

French tobaccoists, school teachers, tax collectors and all sorts of public employees are rapidly assuming their new positions in the area, which is officially attached to the Alps-Maritimes Department of Southern France.

Jerusalem Alarms
Jerusalem, Sept. 16.—Alarm sirens blared to-day for the third time since the beginning of the Jewish New Year festival of Rosh Hoshanah.

Unofficial sources said the alerts resulted from a new series of explosions in a "layer of nerves" being carried on by the Jewish underground.

Eight explosions blasted the holiday peace in the city during the night. Police said they were unable to trace the sources of the disturbances.

Meanwhile, the Arab Higher Executive cancelled a scheduled one-hour strike of Palestine Arabs in sympathy with the Egyptian case against Britain in U.N.O. The Executive said that instead, a general strike would be called in all Arab countries to coincide with the presentation of the Arab case to U.N.O. against the partitioning of the Holy Land.

Adm Harcourt On Cruise
London, Sept. 16.—Fourteen ships of the Mediterranean Fleet are to visit ports in the Western Mediterranean during training exercises between September 18 and October 10.

The cruiser Liverpool (Captain A. C. Chapman), flying the flag of Admiral Sir Algernon Willis, Commander-in-Chief, and escorted by the destroyer Chivalrous, will visit Gibraltar and Toulon and then proceed to Aranci Bay, Sardinia, where she will be joined by other units for the annual sailing regatta.

Vice-Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, second-in-command, Mediterranean Fleet, will proceed on the light carrier Belknap (Captain Abel Smith) escorted by the destroyer Raider to Tripoli, Libya, and on to Algeria before sailing for Aranci Bay.

HARVEST LAG

London, Sept. 16.—Radio Moscow today broadcast a Pravda article charging that several districts in the South Russian wheat belt were lagging behind the harvest.

The article said Krasnodar and Stavropol provinces were the worst offenders; but some parts of the Ukraine were also guilty.

Pravda said the delayed harvest was "distressing because a weather change might destroy the crop."

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